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Wilcott Allegation

H/1/78

The HSCA investigated the allegation of former CIA employee James Wilcott who claimed that shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy, Wilcott was advised by fellow employees at the CIA's [Tokyo Station] ¹³ that Lee Harvey Oswald ^{was} a CIA agent who had received financial disbursements under an assigned cryptonym.

James Wilcott first advised the HSCA of this allegation during an interview ^{on} January 28, 1978 which he later confirmed in ^{Executive Session} testimony before the committee. ^(HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/78, p. 4, JFR Doc # 6446; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Wilcott, 3/22/78, p. 25-29.) ^{H/1/78} Wilcott

explained that he had been employed by the CIA as a finance officer from 1957 ¹⁹⁵⁷ until his resignation from the agency in 1966. ^(HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/78, p. 4, JFR Doc # 6446; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Wilcott, 3/22/78, p. 25-29.)

He served as a fiscal account assistant on the Support Staff at the [Tokyo Station] ¹³ from June of 1960 to June 1964. ^(Ibid., p. 5; Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Records, p. 111/6203, H.A.P.)

Wilcott advised that, in addition to his regular responsibilities there, he had served security duty on his off-duties in order to supplement his income. ^(HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/78, p. 4, JFR Doc # 6446; HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Wilcott, 3/22/78, p. 25-29.)

This additional job put him in contact with ^{other employees} some officers of the [Tokyo Station] ¹³ who would come by the office and engage in informal conversations regarding politics and the news. ^(HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/28/78, p. 5, JFR Doc # 6446.)

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Wilcott told the HSCA that on the day after President Kennedy's assassination, he was informed by a CIA Case Officer that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent. ^(See HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/25/78, p. 44, J.F.K. Doc # 64416.) Wilcott further advised that he was informed that Oswald had been assigned a cryptonym and that Wilcott himself had disbursed payments for Oswald's project using that cryptonym. (Ibid., p. 11-13)

Although Wilcott was unable to identify the specific case officers who had initially informed him of Oswald's agency relationship, he named several employees of the ¹³ [Tokyo ^{Station} with] whom he believed he had subsequently discussed the allegations. (Ibid., p. 8-10.)

Wilcott advised the Committee during his interview that after learning of the alleged Oswald connection to the CIA, he had never checked the ¹³ [Tokyo ^{Station}] disbursement records for evidence ^{of the} that Oswald project. ^(See HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/25/78, p. 44, J.F.K. Doc # 64416.) [* Add Insert on next page.] He explained that this was because, at that point in time, he viewed the information as mere shop talk and gave it little credence. ^(HSCA Staff Interview of James Wilcott, 1/25/78, p. 44, J.F.K. Doc # 64416.)

Neither did he report the allegations to any formal investigative bodies

following the assassination as he considered the information to be hearsay

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[Note: Wilcott stated ^{in Executive} ~~Agency~~ Session testimony that while he may have casually reviewed his personal advance book to see if any money had been distributed to Oswald, he never checked the Agency's official cash disbursement records. [HSCA Executive Session Testimony of James Wilcott, 3/22/75, pp. 13-14.]

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which would not serve to further any investigative purposes. (Ibid., p. 25-27)

In an attempt to ascertain the truth regarding Xiletti's allegations concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's relationship with the CIA, the HSCA interviewed several present and former CIA employees who were selected on the basis of the position each held with the CIA during the years 1957-1964.

Among those persons interviewed were individuals whose responsibilities covered a broad spectrum of areas within the ¹³ [Tokyo Station] during this period, including the Chief and Deputy Chief of Station as well as officers in finance, registry, the Soviet Branch and Counterintelligence. (HSCA Staff Summary of Interviews of CIA Employees, p. 1110717-0718, H. Leap)

The interviews were designed to elicit information regarding the following areas of concern: 1) Did the person ever see any written documentation which would ^{indicate that Lee Harvey} ~~indicate that Lee Harvey~~ Oswald was an intelligence agent or a source of information ^{utilized by} ~~utilized by~~ the CIA? ; 2) Has the person ever ^{orally} ~~advised~~ that Oswald fit either of these categories? 3) Did the person ever overhear or participate

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in any conversation in which allegations were made that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent or an intelligence source for any government service? 4) Has the person in a position in which he or she would have known if Oswald had been recruited as a CIA ^{agent} during his military tour of duty in Japan? 5) What ^{recollection of him or her} was the person's initial awareness of the allegation that Oswald may have been a CIA agent? 6) Did the person know ^{James Wilett while stationed} ~~the person~~ ~~in Japan~~ ~~in Japan?~~

[Japan?] (Ibid., p. 1110715-0719).

In summary, the results of the interviews were as follows. During the course of employment in the ¹³ [Tokyo Station], none of the individuals questioned had ever seen any documents or heard any information indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent. ^{(Ibid., p. 1110719).} This allegation was not known to anyone until the time of publication of Harvey Commission critical literature or until the Harvey Commission investigation in the late 1960's. ^(Ibid.) Some of the individuals, including the Chief of Counterintelligence within the Soviet Russia Branch in ¹³ [Tokyo],

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expressed the belief that it was possible that Lee Harvey Oswald had been recruited by the KGB during his military tour of duty in Japan as the CIA's

[¹³ Tokyo Station] had identified a KGB program aimed at recruiting U.S. military personnel in Tokyo during ~~that~~ ^{the} period ^{that Oswald} ~~of~~ ^{when} was stationed there. (Ibid.)

An intelligence analyst whom Wilcott had specifically named as having been involved in conversation regarding the Oswald-CIA agent allegation

following the assassination told the HSCA that he was not in ¹³ [Tokyo]

[Station] following the JFK assassination. (Ibid., p. 11110718; HSCA executive Session Testimony of James Wilcott, 3/22/78, p. 8)

A review of this individual's

personnel file indicates that he was, in fact, transferred from

[¹³ the Tokyo Station] to the United States in 1962. (HSCA Staff Summary of CIA File Review, p. 11110719, Harold Keap.)

Almost all those persons interviewed who worked in the Soviet Russia Branch stated that they would have known if Lee Harvey Oswald had, in fact,

been recruited as a CIA agent when he was in Japan, as they were in posi-

tions either to have handled him or at least to have had knowledge

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(7) (7)

of the recruitment. (HSCA Staff Summary of Interviews of CIA Employees, CIA
P. 11116712, H. Long).

These persons expressed the opinion that had Oswald been recruited

without their knowledge, it would have been a rare exception contrary

to the working policy and guidelines of ⁽³⁾ [the Tokyo Station] (J. Lee.)

Appendix.

Addendum - 1/23/79 - Wolf indicates that
Chief of Station ⁽¹⁹⁶¹⁻⁶⁵⁾ was indicated that he
definitely would have known had LHO
been an agent. - Goldsmith 3/13/79.

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